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Conference Abstract

TaxonWorks: An experience of migrating large datasets into the new cybertaxonomic infrastructure

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Abstract

TaxonWorks (http://taxonworks.org) in an integrated, open-source, cybertaxonomic web application serving taxonomists and biodiversity scientists. It is designed to facilitate efficient data capture, storage, manipulation, and retrieval. It integrates a wide variety of data types used by biodiversity scientists, including, but not limited to, taxonomy (with validation based on codes of zoological, botanical, bacterial, and viral nomenclature), specimen data, bibliographies, media (images, PDFs, sounds, videos), morphology (character/trait matrices), distribution, biological associations. Available TaxonWorks web interfaces currently provide various data entry forms for simple and advanced querying of the database.

TaxonWorks has integrated batch uploader functionality. But, for larger datasets, specialized migration scripts were used. Several projects, historically build in 3i (http://dmitriev.speciesfile.org), MX (http://mx.phenomix.org), SpeciesFiles (http://software.speciesfile.org), and other databases, have been or are being migrated into TaxonWorks. Of the projects moving into TaxonWorks, it is worth mentioning several: 3i World Auchenorrhyncha Database, LepIndex, Universal Chalcidoidea Database, Orthoptera SpeciesFile, Plecoptera SpeciesFile, Illinois Natural History Survey Insect Collection database, and several others. An experience of the data migration will be shared during the presentation.

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